AP English Lit 2023 Cheatsheet

Theme →	Character	Setting	Structure	Narration
🌱 **Short Fiction I** Unit 1	• Textual details that make up characters: **description**, **dialogue**, and **behavior** • Used as a means of exploring themes and helping the reader connect with the story	• **Setting**: time and place of a text • Revealed by: physical descriptions, historical/cultural references, social norms, demographics, • Implies belief systems of the story and provides context	• **Plot**: sequence of events in a narrative • Can be: chronological, non-chronological, linear, cyclical, episodic, subplot • **Dramatic situation**: setting and action of the plot that contributes to conflict and resolution	• **Narrator**: voice or persona that tells a story in a narrative; may be a character or external • **Speaker**: voice or persona that speaks in a poem, song or other forms of literature • POV tells you the accuracy of information received by reader
🌱 **Short Fiction II** Unit 4	• Characters' actions and speech reveal their values, goals, and relationships • **Protagonist**: main character • **Antagonist**: opposes the protagonist; could be character, a group, or nature • May fulfill a certain **archetype**, or universal theme (ex: hero, villain)	• **Atmosphere**: feeling/environment created by the setting and plot events; what does it make you feel? • **Mood**: emotional tone of text; think tension, romance, fear, etc	• Narrator's **perspective** (the POV from which the story is told) determines what events + details will be presented to the readers • **Tone**: overall emotional feeling conveyed by the narrator/speaker/characters; can change as plot progresses	• **Stream of consciousness narration**: told through the inner thoughts and feelings • **3rd person omniscient POV**: narrator is all-knowing of the characters' thoughts • **Objective narration**: detached and neutral • **Narrative distance**: how close/far the narrator is from the story
🌱 **Short Fiction III** Unit 7	• Gradual change more common than sudden change • **Epiphany**: sudden realization about a plot point, object, or another character • Types of **character groups**: family, friends, society, identity groups	• Changing setting suggests a change in the overall story • Contrasting settings can establish conflict between groups • Character interactions: change setting, destroy/protect it, or describe it	• **Pacing**: manipulation of time of a narrative; for ex, slowing down may emphasize an individual event • Epiphanies often act as catalysts for characters' action and subsequent events	• Characters' description of their setting indicate their attitudes and motivations • Pay attention to narration of epiphanies- language and tone can indicate whether the epiphany moves the conflict forward or backward
☕ **Poetry I** Unit 2	• Like in short fiction, characters in poetry enable writers to explore themes and values • Character may be the speaker	• Is setting addressed? A lack of setting could be significant too • Most prominent physical object in the setting? This can give you an idea of what the writer is emphasizing	• **Prosody**: rhythm and pattern used throughout text; intonation, meter, etc • **Stanza**: part of a poem separated by blank lines • Punctuation influences poem reading	• Speaker's use of literary devices (like personification, metaphors, and similes) should help you understand the poem deeper • Diction (word choice) tells you about the speaker/writer's purpose
☕ **Poetry II** Unit 5	• Use of **hyperbole** can amplify characters' emotion and add humor • Use of **understatement** can minimize or detract, sometimes ironically	• Setting may have multiple meanings/connotations; more than just literal • **Imagery** can paint a picture of the setting	• **Closed structure**: follows fixed pattern (unlike **open structure**) • **Extended metaphor**: comparison between 2 things developed throughout poem	• Narration can utilize **personification** to add relatability and layers of meaning • **Allusion** can add literary culture connection and irony/satire
☕ **Poetry III** Unit 8	• Paradox can make decisions difficult for the speaker, forcing the reader to think too	• Setting can contribute to irony (ex: being surrounded by salt water while thirsty)	• Interruptions of patterns create emphasis • **Juxtaposition**: creates antithesis • **Conceit**: paradoxical extended metaphor	• Ambiguity enables different interpretations • Symbols may imply particular narrator perspective
🧑‍🤝‍🧑 **Long Fiction I** Unit 3	• Character description creates reader expectations for their actions	• Contextualizes the conflict's meaning for characters and the reader	• Event significance: think "what's changed after this event?"	• Symbolism can be used to subvert expectations (using symbols in reverse of typical meaning)
🧑‍🤝‍🧑 **Long Fiction II** Unit 6	• **Foil**: directly contrasts another character to highlight that character	• Adds character complexity by influencing characters' actions and speech	• **Non-linear narrative:** include flashback, foreshadowing, in media res ("into the middle")	• **Narrative bias:** consider if the narrator is trying to convince the reader of something

FRQ Tips: Memorize some common literary elements like tone, style, imagery, figurative language, characterization, etc │ Have a grabber (2-3 sentences) to engage reader │ Avoid general statements; want nuance! │ Thesis template: *In this excerpt from (novel), (author's) (adjective + device) and (adjective + device) portrays/creates the complex (prompt element) as (analysis adjective) and/yet (analysis adjective).*

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| 🕵️**Long Fiction III**
Unit 9 | • Characters' response to resolution reveals their values/development | • Setting of significant events determine the effect they have on characters | • **Suspense** can be built through particular order of significant events
• **Resolution**: conflict is solved | • **Narrative inconsistencies** can create uncertainty and reflect narrative bias |

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